

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF
WHITMAN COLLEGE
STUDENT SENATE
SESSION 2017 SPRING TERM

IN THE SENATE
RESOLUTION SRS17.1

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A Resolution Addressing Student Druggings and the Administration's Response

WHEREAS throughout the 2016-2017 academic year, an unknown number of students have been drugged without their consent and a considerable number of students have reported these incidents to the administration; and

WHEREAS these druggings are unacceptable, illegal, and strongly condemned by the Whitman community; and

WHEREAS students have become fearful for their safety due to the pervasiveness of druggings at Whitman College; and

WHEREAS formal responses from the administration have failed to unequivocally condemn druggings as unacceptable; and

WHEREAS the administration has put the impetus for action upon the student body, yet has not provided sufficient information, pertinent to the druggings; and

WHEREAS these incidents have been known to occur in many spaces, including fraternity houses, private house events only for Whitman students, and events for both Whitman students and Walla Walla residents; and

WHEREAS in response to these incidents, there was a student-organized gathering of over 100 Whitman community members on Sunday, April 9th, to discuss what actions should be taken to stop further druggings and ensure the wellbeing of the campus community; and

WHEREAS the following morning, on Monday, April 10th, members of this group went to the office of the Dean of Students, Chuck Cleveland, to request access to all relevant information that the administration had about these incidents and insist upon a stronger response; and

WHEREAS students are taking active steps to protect their fellow students and keep each other informed about the druggings; and

WHEREAS students made specific requests of Dean of Students Chuck Cleveland and the Student Affairs staff to help students feel safe and informed; and

WHEREAS these requests were met with serious consideration and efforts to move forward on the part of the Student Affairs staff and the President's Cabinet.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that students will continue to hold each other accountable and work to create a campus climate that protects all students in all spaces regardless of Greek affiliation, race, class, gender, ability, sexual orientation or socioeconomic status from predatory behavior; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ASWC impels all members of the Whitman Community to acknowledge non-consensual druggings as a function of rape culture, and condemn it wherever it may exist; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Communications Department should create and collaborate with a focus group of students to improve the quality and sensitivity of language used in timely warnings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that current Dean of Students Chuck Cleveland, future Dean of Students Daren Mooko, and the Student Affairs staff act upon the druggings with reference to the listed items below, which were collaboratively created by student groups following the most recent drugging incident.

- Continued distribution of a protocol for reporting pertinent information, including: when names will be used, whether students will be called upon for further meetings, and whether they will face disciplinary actions.
- Continued distribution of information on possible signs and symptoms of druggings so that all students can better identify these in themselves and others.
- A response from the Dean of Students Office responding to drugging incidents demonstrating in no uncertain terms that druggings are unacceptable and will not be tolerated at Whitman College.
- A detailed plan to educate and inform incoming students about these events and how, specifically, the College is responding and will continue to respond.
- Specific training for all campus security and health center employees, both student and non-student, on how to identify, treat, and direct individuals suspected of being drugged.
- Communication to students about how to access the daily crime log where reported infractions are listed.
- Serious consideration of how the Student Affairs staff determines which information is important and specific enough to be disseminated to the student body, recognizing both the confidential and personal nature of these incidents and the importance of student safety.
- Consistent communication between the current and incoming Dean of Students about the precedents being set now on campus.
- Institute advocacy for students who are discriminated against because of age, race, ethnicity, gender, or other societally-constructed othering within situations that include hospital staff, security, Health Center staff, and other parties who could aid in the treatment of the affected victim.

Distributed to:

President Kathy Murray

Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Chuck Cleveland

Vice President for Communications and Public Relations Joshua Jensen

Incoming Dean of Students Daren Mooko

Dean of Students' Office

Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion Kazi Joshua

Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations John Bogley

Provost and Dean of Faculty Alzada Tipton

Chair of the Faculty Melissa Clearfield

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